

Miles Goodyear Cabin  
Tabernacle Park  
Ogden  
Weber County  
Utah

HABS No. U-55

HABS  
UTAH,  
29-OGDEN  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## MILES GOODYEAR CABIN

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Location: Tabernacle Park, Ogden, Weber County, Utah  
Latitude: 41° 13' 40" N Longitude: 111° 58' 18" W

Present Owner: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Ogden

Present Occupant: Unoccupied

Present Use: Relic

Statement of Significance: The first permanent home built un Utah.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

Miles Goodyear (1845)  
Captain James Brown (1847)  
Amos Pease Stone (1855)  
Minerva Stone Shaw (1896)  
Ogden City (1926)  
Minerva Stone Shaw (1928)  
Daughters of Utah Pioneers (1928)

## 2. Date of erection: 1845

## 3. Architect: None

## 4. Builder: Miles Goodyear

## 5. Alterations: Rotted foundation logs and roof replaced during one of various moves.

## B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Building:

Fort Buenaventura, as Miles Goodyear called the settlement he founded on the site of Ogden, Utah, must be considered as the true beginning of the city. The fort was located on the Weber River about two miles above its junction with the Ogden, a little south of what is now 28th Street, east and slightly north of a large sand mound. The site was magnificent, the rugged scarp of the Wasatch rising immediately to the east, and the broad Weber Valley sloping gently west to the distant band of shining water that was the Great Salt Lake. Andrew

Goodyear, Miles' brother, describes his impressions in a letter written from Pueblo de Los Angeles on April 14, 1878: "The fort consisted of about half an acre enclosed with pickets, as usual with forts of the west, a log house stood at each corner of the enclosure, with adjoining corrals for the horses, cattle, sheep and goats. This at any rate describes the fort as it existed in the fall of 1847, though some of these improvements may have been the product of a full year's labor."

Another account states that Goodyear's holdings consisted of two or three log houses, some sheds for livestock and a plot of ground, enclosed by a stockade of logs set upright in the ground. Goodyear and his family lived in one of the cabins; his Indian helpers and a man named Wells lived in the other houses. It also describes Goodyear's livestock holdings at the time as "a herd of sheep and goats, a band of horses, and about 70 head of cattle."

In establishing when Goodyear settled on this site, we find that John C. Fremont explored the Weber in this district in 1843 and makes no mention of the fort. A record made by a young frontiersman, John McBride, whose party camped on the site in 1846 on their way to Oregon states: "That night we encamped at the crossing of the Ogden River, in the delta between the Ogden and the Weber. At the camp was a cabin built of cottonwood logs. It had been occupied the year before by a trader whose name was known and mentioned by our trapper friends, but who had gone north, they stated to the Yellowstone." (Goodyear made a trip to the Yellowstone in 1846.) To further establish the date of construction as 1845, he also states that mountain man Joe Walker told him the cabin had been first occupied the year previous to his visit.

Goodyear's claim to ownership was based on his assertion that the land was ceded to him through a land grant by the Mexican Government. His "deed" to the property described the lands as follows: "Commencing at the mouth of Weber Canyon and following the base of the mountains north to the hot springs; thence west to the Salt Lake, thence south along the shore to a point opposite Weber Canyon, thence east to the beginning." (This describes an area of land extending about 14 miles from north to south, and fifteen miles from east to west.) When this land was ceded to the United States in 1848 by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, land grant claims were honored. It was of supreme importance to the Mormon leadership that such a large claim to this territory should be acquired. They could of course, simply take it by force; but this would not extinguish the claim, so they negotiated the purchase of the property for \$2,000.00. Captain James

Brown of the Mormon Battalion actually purchased the title on November 25, 1847, including improvements and stock. (He also deducted \$50.00 from the sale price as a commission.) It is curious that Goodyear never did produce proof of his land grant ownership; in fact, it is highly questionable that he ever did have it. Miles Goodyear moved to California and died in a cabin in the Sierras on the headwaters of the Yuba River on November 12, 1849. He was 32.

The name of Fort Buenaventura was changed to Brown's Fort by the Mormons. It was also called "Brown's Settlement" and "Brownsville" until the name Ogden City was officially bestowed on the settlement on January 31, 1850. However, the post office was called Brownsville until 1854.

It has been determined that the Goodyear cabin has been moved seven times from its original location, as follows:

- (1) Flooding in the spring of 1850 inundated the bottom land near the Weber River where the cabin stood. The fort was abandoned and moved to higher ground one-quarter mile southeast to what became known as Brown's Fort.
- (2) 1855 - Amos Pease Stone purchased the cabin from Captain Brown and moved it to Tabernacle Square facing north on 21st Street at about 150 feet west of Washington Avenue. It was used as a residence.
- (3) 1860 - Stone moved it to a point just east of Washington Avenue and just north of Mill Creek where he used it as a blacksmith shop.
- (4) 1866 - Cabin moved a short distance north to 1342 Washington Avenue to make way for a flour mill.
- (5) 1896 - Minerva Stone Shaw, daughter of Amos Stone bought cabin from her father's estate and moved it to the rear of her home at 1265 Washington Avenue.
- (6) November 8, 1926 - Mrs. Shaw presented the cabin to Ogden City as a relic. They removed it to a lot in the rear of the branch fire station of the southeast corner of 9th Street and Washington Avenue
- (7) 1928 - Ogden City Commission returned cabin to the ownership of Mrs. Shaw who donated it to Daughters of Utah Pioneers. They moved it to its present location on Tabernacle Square, not over 100 yards from where it stood in 1855.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Site marker, by Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Weber County Chapter, states: "This cabin, built about 1841 by Miles Goodyear, as far as is known the first permanent house built in Utah, stood near the junction of the Ogden and Weber Rivers. In 1848 it was sold to Captain James Brown of the Mormon Battalion with a Spanish land grant covering all of Weber County. It was preserved by Minerva Stone Shaw and by her presented to the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, Weber County Chapter, who placed it on its present site." It is in error as to date of construction (1845) and date of sale to Captain Brown (1847).

2. Bibliography:

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Prepared by John L. Giusti, AIA  
July 27, 1968

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural interest: This is said to be the oldest house in Utah.

2. Condition of fabric: Good. Original walls. Later cased opening. Recent roof.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This one-room cabin is 14' 4" x 17' 9".
2. Foundations: None. Now on concrete platform.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: Cottonwood logs.
4. Structural system, framing: Log construction. Five poles run length of gable roof supported by a single log cross beam with center post at the ridge pole and shimming under the intermediate poles.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Doorway and board door old but sawn lumber indicates not original.
  - b. Windows: Rectangular openings. Sawn lumber frames indicate date after 1847.
6. Roof - shape, covering: Gable covered with branches, a conjectural restoration. A photo of 30 years ago shows wood shingles.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: A single rectangular room with entrance centered at one side.
2. Flooring: Dirt, originally.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Exposed
4. Heating: No evidence of original heating method. Smoke hole must have been in the roof.

D. Site and Surroundings:

1. Orientation: Faces east. Now in Tabernacle Park, the seventh move since it was originally built on a knoll by the Weber River.
2. Landscaping and walks, enclosures: The building is enclosed in a locked wire cage with a gable roof and a concrete platform.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This record is part of a Utah Survey conducted in the summers of 1967 and 1968 under joint sponsorship of the Historic American Buildings Survey of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation of the National Park Service and the Utah Heritage Foundation.

Field work, historic research and record drawings were done under the direction of Project Supervisor Paul Goeldner, AIA (Texas Tech University) assisted by Project Historian John L. Giusti, AIA (University of Utah). Photographs were made by P. Kent Fairbanks of Salt Lake City.

Student Assistant Architects on the 1967 team were Robert M. Swanson and Charles W. Barrow, (University of Texas) and Kenneth L. Lambert and Keith Sorenson, (University of Utah). 1968 Student Assistant Architects were Keith Sorenson, Charles D. Harker and Robert Schriever, (University of Utah) and Donald G. Prycer, (Texas A. & M. University).